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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/550,278	04/14/2000	Kazuyuki Kurita	0879-0261P	9589
7590	06/30/2005		EXAMINER	
Birch Stewart Kolasch & Birch LLP P O Box 747 Falls Church, VA 22040-0747			JERABEK, KELLY L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2612	

DATE MAILED: 06/30/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/550,278	KURITA, KAZUYUKI
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Kelly L. Jerabek	2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 March 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 3/21/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Response to Remarks:

Applicant's arguments (Amendment page 8) state that the Cortjens reference fails to teach or suggest "and said control signal being data for directly controlling at least one of the remote control pan head and the camera...a data converter which detects a data format of a communication data outputted from the operation part including the control signal into a data format used in serial communication which conforms with a data format for the remote control pan head if the data format of the communication data differs from the data format for the remote control pan head, and transmits the converted communication data to the remote control pan head". The Examiner respectfully disagrees. Cortjens discloses in figure 1 a videoconferencing system capable of remotely controlling the pan, tilt, zoom, and focus of cameras (col. 5, lines 30-42). The videoconferencing system allows a user to use an operation part (mouse 12) to send out a control signal (mouse movement signals such as left, right, etc.) to remotely control a camera to be panned (col. 6, lines 20-61). **The control**

signals (mouse movement signals) are converted in order to ensure that the mouse can communicate with the pan/tilt mechanism, however this does not mean that the control signals (mouse movement signals) do not directly control a remote control pan head. Cortjens states that a movement of the mouse causes the movement of a pan motor of the pan/tilt mechanism (col. 6, lines 20-67). Therefore, the control signals (mouse movement signals) directly control a remote control pan head. The videoconferencing system utilizes converters (11A,11B), controller (10), network (23), and pan/tilt unit control node (17) in order to convert signals from the mouse (12) into network standard signals and convert the network standard signals into signals appropriate for the pan/tilt mechanism (col. 6, lines 20-53). The examiner is reading the converters (11A,11B,11E) as the data converter because the videoconferencing system uses these converters (11A,11B,11E) to convert signals from the mouse (12) into network standard signals and convert the network standard signals into signals appropriate for the pan/tilt mechanism. Thus, the data converter includes converters (11A,11B,11E) that detect a data format of a communication data outputted from the operation part (mouse 12) and convert the communication data into a data format (network standard signals) used in serial communication which conforms with a data format for the remote control pan head if the data format of the communication data differs from the data format of the remote control pan head, and transmit the converted communication data (network standard signals) to the remote control pan head (col. 6, lines 20-53).

Applicant's arguments (Amendment page 9) state that the Cortjens reference fails to teach or suggest a converter that converts a control signal for controlling a pan head system into a data format applicable to a remote control pan head. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. The videoconferencing system utilizes converters (11A,11B), controller (10), network (23), and pan/tilt unit control node (17) in order to convert signals from the mouse (12) into network standard signals and convert the network standard signals into signals appropriate for the pan/tilt mechanism (col. 6, lines 20-61). The examiner is reading the converters (11A,11B,11E) as the data converter because the videoconferencing system uses these converters (11A,11B,11E) to convert signals from the mouse (12) into network standard signals and convert the network standard signals into signals appropriate for the pan/tilt mechanism. Thus, the data converter includes converters (11A,11B,11E) that detect a data format of a communication data outputted from the operation part (mouse 12) and convert the communication data into a data format (network standard signals) used in serial communication which conforms with a data format for the remote control pan head if the data format of the communication data differs from the data format of the remote control pan head, and transmit the converted communication data (network standard signals) to the remote control pan head (col. 6, lines 20-61).

Applicant's arguments (Amendment page 9) state that the Cortjens reference is not related to a TV camera. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. Cortjens states that for the sake of clarity the details of the video teleconferencing system such as cameras

are not shown in figure 1 (col. 1, lines 35-42). However, Cortjens states that video signals from the cameras of the system are send to monitors (21) that are color televisions (col. 7, lines 12-34). Therefore, it can be seen that the cameras of the system are TV cameras.

Applicant's arguments (Amendment page 9) state that the mouse disclosed by Cortjens is not a mouse specialized for controlling a pan tilt head. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. The videoconferencing system disclosed by Cortjens allows a user to use an operation part (mouse 12) to send out a control signal (mouse movement signals such as left, right, etc.) to remotely control a camera to be panned (col. 6, lines 20-61). Therefore, the mouse is for controlling a pan tilt head.

Applicant's arguments (Amendment page 10) state that in contrast to Cortjens, the claimed invention aims to convert the command data that controls the existing pan tilt head or the pan tilt head of the devices of other companies into a command data for controlling the pan tilt head with a new protocol format. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. Cortjens states that even if the type of mouse is changes or the type of pan/tilt mechanism is changed, the converters (11) will convert the signals from the mouse into signals appropriate for the pan/tilt mechanism (col. 6, lines 47-53). Also, the claims do not mention anything in regards to the companies that manufacture the devices.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4, 6-9, and 11 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cortjens et al. US 5,598,209.

Re claim 1, Cortjens discloses in figure 1 a videoconferencing system capable of remotely controlling the pan, tilt, zoom, and focus of cameras (col. 5, lines 30-42). The videoconferencing system allows a user to use an operation part (mouse 12) to send out a control signal (mouse movement signals) to remotely control a camera to be panned (col. 6, lines 20-61). The control signals (mouse movement signals) are converted in order to ensure that the mouse can communicate with the pan/tilt mechanism, however this does not mean that the control signals (mouse movement signals) do not directly control a remote control pan head. Cortjens states that a movement of the mouse causes the movement of a pan motor of the pan/tilt mechanism (col. 6, lines 20-67). Therefore, the control signals (mouse movement signals) directly

control a remote control pan head. The videoconferencing system utilizes converters (11A,11B), controller (10), network (23), and pan/tilt unit control node (17) in order to convert signals from the mouse (12) into network standard signals and convert the network standard signals into signals appropriate for the pan/tilt mechanism (col. 6, lines 20-61). The examiner is reading the converters (11A,11B,11E) as the data converter because the videoconferencing system uses these converters (11A,11B,11E) to convert signals from the mouse (12) into network standard signals and convert the network standard signals into signals appropriate for the pan/tilt mechanism. Thus, the data converter includes converters (11A,11B,11E) that detect a data format of a communication data outputted from the operation part (mouse 12) and convert the communication data into a data format (network standard signals) used in serial communication which conforms with a data format for the remote control pan head if the data format of the communication data differs from the data format of the remote control pan head, and transmit the converted communication data (network standard signals) to the remote control pan head (col. 6, lines 20-53).

Re claim 2, the controller (10) disclosed by Cortjens serves as a recognition device since the controller (10) determines that the network standard control signals provided by converter (11B) signify a mouse movement corresponding for a selected camera to pan left (col. 6, lines 34-38). Therefore, controller (10) automatically recognizes a type of data format of the communication data from the operation part (mouse 12).

Re claim 3, Cortjens states that it is possible for a single converter to service two or more devices, such as converter (11B) servicing mouse (12) and joystick (18) (col. 6, lines 2-4). When sending information regarding the user's movement of devices (12) or (18) converter (11B) also sends also sends information as to whether the activity is associated with the mouse (12) or the joystick (18) (col. 6, lines 5-8). Therefore, since the converter (11B) sends information to a controller (10) as to whether a user is using a mouse (12) or a joystick (18) the converter (11B) must include a device (switching device) that determines whether the user is using the mouse (12) or the joystick (18). Thus, the user is able to designate a type of data format of the communication data outputted from the operation part (12,18) depending on whether the user chooses to operate the mouse (12) or the joystick (18).

Re claim 4, Cortjens states that the signals provided may be binary signals such as (101011) or some other code (col. 6, lines 54-61). Therefore, it can be seen that the data format is a bit-based communication.

Re claim 6, Cortjens discloses in figure 1 a videoconferencing system capable of remotely controlling the pan, tilt, zoom, and focus of cameras (col. 5, lines 30-42). The videoconferencing system allows a user to use several operation parts (mouse 12, joystick 18, etc.) to each send out a distinct control signal (mouse/joystick movement signals) to remotely control a camera to be panned (col. 5, line 55 - col. 6, line 61). The

control signals (mouse/joystick movement signals) are converted in order to ensure that the mouse can communicate with the pan/tilt mechanism, however this does not mean that the control signals (mouse/joystick movement signals) do not directly control a remote control pan head. Cortjens states that a movement of the mouse causes the movement of a pan motor of the pan/tilt mechanism (col. 6, lines 20-67). Therefore, the control signals (mouse/joystick movement signals) directly control a remote control pan head. The videoconferencing system utilizes converters (11A,11B), controller (10), network (23), and pan/tilt unit control node (17) in order to convert signals from the mouse (12) into network standard signals and convert the network standard signals into signals appropriate for the pan/tilt mechanism (col. 6, lines 20-61). The examiner is reading the converters (11A,11B,11E) as the data converter because the videoconferencing system uses these converters (11A,11B,11E) to convert signals from the mouse (12) into network standard signals and convert the network standard signals into signals appropriate for the pan/tilt mechanism. Thus, the data converter includes converters (11A,11B,11E) that detect a data format of a communication data outputted from each of the operation parts (mouse 12, joystick 18) and convert the communication data into a data format (network standard signals) used in serial communication which conforms with a data format for the remote control pan head if the data format of the communication data differs from the data format of the remote control pan head, and transmit the converted communication data (network standard signals) to the remote control pan head (col. 6, lines 20-53).

Re claim 7, see claim 2.

Re claim 8, see claim 3.

Re claim 9, see claim 4.

Re claim 11, Cortjens states that for the sake of clarity the details of the video teleconferencing system such as cameras and pan/tilt units for the cameras are not shown in figure 1 (col. 1, lines 35-42). However, Cortjens states that video signals from the cameras of the system are send to monitors (21) that are color televisions (col. 7, lines 12-34). Therefore, it can be seen that the cameras of the system are TV cameras. The pan/tilt unit control node (17) controls the pan/tilt unit based on signals indicating a mouse movement (col. 6, lines 20-61). Therefore, the pan/tilt unit control node (17) serves as a pan head control part. Also the pan/tilt unit includes a pan motor, a tilt motor, and communication integrated circuit (digital controller) for controlling the operation of the pan motor and the tilt motor (col. 6, line 54 – col. 7, line 35).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and

the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 5 and 10 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cortjens et al.

Re claims 5 and 10, Cortjens discloses all of the limitations of claims 1 and 6 above. Additionally, Cortjens states that the signals provided may be binary signals such as (101011) or some other code (col. 6, lines 54-61). However, Cortjens does not specifically state that the signals provided may be character-based signals. The Examiner takes **Official Notice** that it is well known in the art to provide communication data in a character-based format. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to have been motivated to use character-based signals for communication rather than binary based signals.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Maekawa (US 5,838,250) discloses a remote-control apparatus and an image input apparatus. The information regarding converting control signals is relevant material.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Contacts

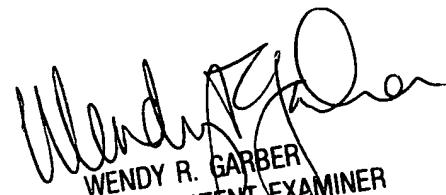
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kelly L. Jerabek whose telephone number is **(571) 272-7312**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy Garber can be reached on **(571) 272-7308**. The fax phone

number for submitting all Official communications is 703-872-9306. The fax phone number for submitting informal communications such as drafts, proposed amendments, etc., may be faxed directly to the Examiner at **(571) 273-7312**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

KLJ



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